

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Akeno** (JP 07-181275) in view of **Michioka et al.** (USP 6,155,717). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Akeno discloses a linear movement device including a first roller 2 as a driven roller, a second roller 3 as a driving roller, and a cylindrical movable member 9, wherein the movable member 9 is held between the first roller 2 and the second roller 3 and rotational force of the second roller 3 is transmitted to the movable member 9 by rotating the second roller 3 as the driving roller so as to move the movable member 9 in the axial direction.

However, **Akeno** does not disclose or suggest the feature “*wherein said lubricator has an opening which is formed in a side of said lubricator and which has such a shape and a size as to allow said lubricator to be attached to and detached from said shaft, and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft,*” as recited in claim 1.

As will be discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that **Michioka** does not alleviate any of the above-noted deficiencies of claim 1.

The **Michioka** reference discloses that lubricant is coated from projecting pieces 56 of a lubricant coater 42 onto rolling faces. However, **Michioka** relates to a linear guide device, that is, the technical field of **Michioka** is different from the technical field of the traction drive power transmission device of claim 1. This is also clear from a fact that IPCs of **Michioka** are different from those of the present invention. Even though **Michioka** teaches that the lubricant is coated on the rolling faces, it does not affect the novelty and inventive step of the invention of claim 1 because the technical field of **Michioka** is different from the technical field of the invention of claim 1.

In the invention of claim 1, the lubricator has “applicators for applying lubricant only to contact portions of the shaft with the driving roller and the driven roller.” However, **Michioka** coats lubricant onto the rolling faces of the track rail (track shaft) 1 of the linear guide device. That is, **Michioka** is different, in object to be applied with lubricant, from the invention of claim 1.

Further, **Michioka** does not disclose or suggest “*wherein said lubricator has an opening which is formed in a side of said lubricator and which has such a shape and a size as to allow said lubricator to be attached to and detached from said shaft, and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft,*” as recited in claim 1, and therefore the combination of references does not disclose this feature..

In the lubricant supplying member of **Michioka**, lubricant is coated from the projecting pieces 56 of the lubricant coater 42 onto the rolling faces of the track rail (track shaft) 1.

However, in **Michioka**, the lubricant supplying member is not allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through an opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft, as recited in claim 1.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the track rail (track shaft) 1 of the linear guide device in **Michioka** is considered to correspond to the shaft of the claimed invention, the lubricant supplying member 4, 6 of the linear guide device is not allowed to be attached to and detached from the track rail 1 through the opening in a direction perpendicular to an axial direction of the track rail 1.

Although the lubricant supplying member 4, 6 of the linear guide device disclosed in **Michioka** is provided at a lower side with an opening as shown in Fig. 2 or Fig. 6, the size between inner ends of portions of the opening projecting inwardly at a lower portion, of which width is the minimum, is smaller than the size between outer ends of portions projecting outwardly, of which width is the maximum, of the track rail 1. Therefore, the lubricant supplying member 4, 6 is not allowed to be attached to and detached from the track rail 1 in the direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the track rail 1.

In the linear guide device as disclosed in Fig. 2 or Fig. 6 in **Michioka**, the track rail 1 has such a configuration as to receive reverse radial load. Accordingly, a sliding member 2 and the lubricant supplying member 4, 6 on both sides thereof are not allowed to be attached to and detached from the track rail 1 in the direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the track rail 1 without damaging them.

The constituent feature “*wherein said lubricator has an opening which is formed in a side of said lubricator and which has such a shape and a size as to allow said lubricator to be attached to and detached from said shaft, and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft,*” as recited in claim 1, results in the following operations and effects, which **Akeno** and **Michioka** do not have.

The attachment and detachment of the lubricator to a side end of the housing box accommodating the driving roller and the driven roller of the traction drive power transmission device is allowed to be extremely easily conducted. The shaft extends from the both side ends of the housing box. That is, to detach the lubricator, the lubricator is detached from the side end of the housing box by pulling the lubricator. To attach the lubricator, the lubricator is attached to the side end of the housing box by fitting the shaft to the opening formed in the side portion of the lubricator. Especially, it allows extremely easy replacement of the lubricator during maintenance of the traction drive power transmission device. These operations and effects are not obtained at all by the inventions of the cited **Akeno** and **Michioka** references, which do not disclose or suggest the feature “*wherein said lubricator has an opening which is formed in a side of said lubricator and which has such a shape and a size as to allow said lubricator to be attached to and detached from said shaft, and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft.*”

Such traction drive power transmission device is often placed in a narrow space because of other equipment in plant. If the traction drive power transmission device does not have the aforementioned feature “*wherein said lubricator has an opening...and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft,*” the replacement of the lubricator must be conducted by first detaching the lubricator from the side end of the housing box and moving the detached lubricator to a distal end of the shaft extending from the side end of the housing box. The attachment of the lubricator must be conducted by first inserting the shaft into the opening of the lubricator at the distal end of the shaft extending from the side end of the housing box and moving the lubricator to the side end of the housing box. It is quite difficult to move the lubricator from the side end of the housing box to the distal end of the shaft and to move the lubricator from the distal end of the shaft to the side end of the housing box in the narrow space due to other equipment.

Because the invention presently recited in claim 1 includes the feature “*wherein said lubricator has an opening which is formed in a side of said lubricator and which has such a shape and a size as to allow said lubricator to be attached to and detached from said shaft, and said lubricator is allowed to be attached to and detached from the shaft through said opening in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said shaft,*” the lubricator can be detached from and attached to the shaft at a place of the side end of the housing box in the state extending in the direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the shaft, thereby facilitating the detachment and attachment of the lubricator.

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Art Unit: 3657

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 052710

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 which depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and define allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

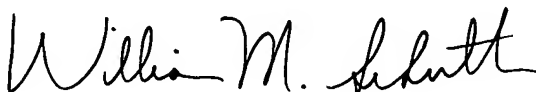
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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